CIRCULATION. Volume 2 of the second section of the Handbook of Physiology. Edited by W. F. Hamilton and P. Dow for the American Physiological Society. (Pp. v + 1027; illustrated. £12. 16s.) Baltimore: Waverly Press Inc.; British Distributors: Baillière, Tindall & Cox, London, 1963.

MUCH should be expected of a book costing £12. 16s. A buyer might question whether the payment of such a price is justifiable for a book which describes one facet of a rapidly advancing field of knowledge. For the expert in the field it certainly is justifiable when buying this latest volume of the American Physiological Society's Handbook. It is the second volume in the section on the circulation. The first volume dealt with the physiology and biophysics of the blood and exchangeable fluids together with the action and control of the heart. The second volume deals with the functional characteristics of blood vessels and their co-ordination in supplying blood to the several organs. The third volume in the section, which is not yet published, will deal with the circulation as a co-ordinated whole. The volumes should be useful to physiologists for a very long time since the authors have attempted to sum up the present state of knowledge in their respective fields rather than describe the latest results.

Though the authors are predominantly American, people from other parts of the world have written chapters where their special knowledge made it appropriate. It was pleasant to see two professors of Physiology from Queen's in this elite. Barcroft has a chapter on the circulation in skeletal muscle and Greenfield has another on the circulation through the skin. Other authors deal with the regulation of the circulation in the lung (A. P. Fishman), heart (D. E. Gregg), kidney (E. E. Selkurt), liver (S. E. Bradley), etc. G. E. Burch and L. N. Katz have chapters on vascular diseases. There are other chapters on arteriovenous pathways, the importance of lymph, the venous system, exchange of substances at capillary walls and the biophysics of flow in arteries

The volume makes an important contribution to physiology and the American Physiological Society are again to be congratulated for sponsoring the series. I. C. R.

AN OUTLINE OF BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNITY. By Ronald Hare, M.D. (Pp. xii + 463; illustrated. 40s.) London: Longmans, 1963.

THE second edition of this deservedly popular book provides all that the medical student needs and ought to know. New sections on bacterial genetics and routine immunisation are included, and there are separate up-to-date chapters on fungi, rickettsiae, viruses and bacteriophages.

The volume is not just a textbook on an academic subject, necessary for examinations. It provides a mine of valuable information which will be useful to the student throughout his medical career; the chapters on immunization in the prevention and treatment of infection, the sources and transmission of infection and the chemotherapy of infections by micro-organisms, and the section on methods of sterilization in medical practice, are important in this respect. The sections dealing with infection in hospital, its sources and paths of spread, control and prevention, are invaluable in leading the student from the œcology of bacteria to the problems of cross-infection in hospital wards.

The book contains numerous tables, illustrations and figures and is to be highly commended to medical students. V. D. A.